GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:340
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2017
Prices of Pulses
Adsul Shri Anandrao ;Patil Shri Shivaji Adhalrao;Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether retail prices of most pulses specially arhar (tur) dal reached the Rs. 200 per kg. mark in most parts of the country due to supply crunch and if so, the reasons therefor;
(b) whether the Government had tenders for import of 5000 tonnes of arhar dal to boost domestic supply and if so, the details thereof and the countries from where these pulses were/are to be imported along with the quantum thereof, country-wise;
(c) the details of the total quantum of arhar dal imported as a result thereof along with the details of the companies which have imported the arhar dal and the quantum thereof, company-wise;
(d) the rates at which these pulses were imported; and
(e) whether the Union Government proposes to sell imported tur dal in the open market to control the price and if so, the details thereof and the total quantum of imported arhar dal sold in the open market?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (e) : During the year 2015-16, retail prices of pulses specially Tur dal were generally high on account of lower production due to adverse weather condition. The retail price of Rs.200/- per kg was recorded only at few places for small duration. In view of the lower production and increase in prices, Government had directed MMTC to import 5,000 MT of Tur. In pursuance of the order, MMTC imported 4927 MT at the rate of Rs. 79,232/- per MT (landed cost) from Malawi/Mozambique. Based on the requests received, the imported Tur was released to States and Central Agencies at a subsidized rate of Rs. 69/- per kg for direct retailing to consumers. Of the 4927 MT of imported, 4422 MT was released to States/Central Agencies and remaining balance of 505 MT for which no request was received from States was auctioned in the open market. However, due to bumper production of pulses during 2016-17 as well as various measure taken by Government, prices of all major pulses have declined significantly during the current year.
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